

Message Text

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SUBJ: PROPOSED TERMS FOR THIRD NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT

REF: DUBLIN 893, AUG 3, 1972, 1581 NOV 30, 1973

1. DUBLIN MEDIA REPORT TERMS OF DRAFT THIRD NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT COMPLETED DECEMBER 13 BY WORKING PARTY OF EMPLOYER/LABOR CONFERENCE. EMPLOYER BODIES (INCLUDING GOVERNMENT AND STATE- SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS) AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ICTU) HAVE RECOMMENDED ACCEPTANCE. ICTU DELEGATE CONFERENCE WILL VOTE ON PACKAGE JANUARY 29.

2. PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF NEW AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY AS FOLLOWS:

A) MINIMUM INCREASE OF 2 POUNDS PER WEEK.

B) INCREASE OF 9 PERCENT ON BASIC PAY UP TO 30 POUNDS PER WEEK; 7 PERCENT ON NEXT 10 POUNDS; 6 PERCENT ON NEXT 10 POUNDS; AND 5 PERCENT ON ANY BASIC PAY OVER 50 POUNDS.

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C) NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE PHASED IN AS SECOND PAY

AGREEMENT PHASES OUT AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN VARIOUS AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT. NEW AGREEMENT WILL RUN 12 MONTHS (SHORTER THAN 15 MONTH DURATION OF SECOND AGREEMENT). NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR ADDITIONAL 3.5 PERCENT PLUS 60 PENCE INCREASE IN CASES WHERE IT HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR 6 MONTHS. FURTHER, THERE WILL BE 1 PERCENT INCREASE FOR EACH 1 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 10 PERCENT IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

D) TO BRING TERMINATION DATES OF PAY AGREEMENTS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS CLOSER TOGETHER, NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT INCREASES UNDER NEW AGREEMENT CAN BE INTRODUCED AS EARLY AS THREE MONTHS BEFORE TERMINATION OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENT.

E) TO BRING EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN CLOSER, AGREEMENT WOULD REPORTEDLY PERMIT NEGOTIATION TO NARROW DIFFERENTIAL BY AS MUCH AS 33.3 PERCENT.

3. NEW PROPOSALS ARE ROUGHLY IN SAME RANGE AS PREVIOUS AGREEMENT WHICH WORKED OUT TO ABOUT 12 PERCENT AVERAGE RISE PER ANNUM FOR INDUSTRIAL LABOR FORCE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR CONFERENCE TO AGREE ON LESS INFLATIONARY INCREASES GIVEN CURRENT CONSUMER PRICES SPIRAL. NO COMMENT THUS FAR HEARD FROM EITHER EMPLOYERS OR TRADE UNIONS, BUT AS REPORTED DUBLIN 1581, CRAFT UNIONS EARLIER DEMANDED 33 PERCENT INCREASE. PERHAPS SITUATION ACROSS THE WATER IN BRITAIN, WIDELY REPORTED IN DUBLIN MEDIA, WILL MUTE EXCESSIVE DEMANDS.

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED RECORD 12.6 PERCENT RISE IN COST OF LIVING FOR YEAR ENDED MID-NOVEMBER 1973. CLOTHING WAS UP 18.3 PERCENT, FOOD 16.1 PERCENT, DURABLE HOUSEHOLD GOODS BY 14.6 PERCENT, TRANSPORT, SERVICES, ETC. BY 12.8 PERCENT, AND OTHER INCREASES LESS. WORKERS DUE FOR COST OF LIVING SUPPLEMENT UNDER SECOND NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT WILL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL 1.38 POUNDS PER WEEK. MOORE

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